



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Corps Officials to conduct Public Meeting for East Branch Dam Safety Initiative

- WHO:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District
- WHAT:** The Corps of Engineers invites stakeholders to participate in a town hall meeting to discuss progress and activities tied to its East Branch Dam Safety Initiative. In spring 2008, the Pittsburgh District initiated a dam safety investigation into seepage-related concerns at East Branch Clarion River Lake near Johnsonburg in Western Pennsylvania. The Corps has classified the dam as having confirmed and unconfirmed, potentially unsafe issues that require further study. Subsequently, the Corps has been investigating the issues with the dam and considering alternatives to repair it. At this meeting, the Corps will share the current status of the Dam Safety Study which addresses these issues.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, May 4, 7 p.m.
- WHERE:** Johnsonburg High School Auditorium, 315 High School Road, Johnsonburg, PA 15845
- WHY:** Public safety is the number one priority of the Corps' Dam Safety Program. In 2004, the Corps began using a risk-informed screening process that considers a dam's current behavior, how well it meets current design criteria, and potential consequences of failure. Our screening process at East Branch Dam identified confirmed and unconfirmed seepage-related issues which merit further analysis and evaluation. To reduce the risk to the public, Pittsburgh District implemented several interim risk reduction measures, including increased monitoring; 24/7 staffing; updated emergency action plans; and reduced water levels in the reservoir to relieve pressure on the dam. These and other short-term actions allow us to operate the dam to meet our public safety objective while we further investigate our concerns and pursue long-term repairs, if necessary. As we take steps to reduce risk to the public, we recognize that recreation, water supply, hydropower and the environment may be impacted. We encourage those who may have questions or concerns to contact us.
- RESOURCES:** Please see attached Status Report. For more information, visit:
www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/eastbran.htm
- CONTACT:** Public Affairs Office at 412-395-7500 or Email: EastBranch@usace.army.mil